

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Environmental Assessment (EA) #ID-330-2007-EA-3268 was prepared to analyze the impacts of authorizing term grazing permits and appropriate livestock grazing management including range improvements that would promote significant progress toward, or the attainment and maintenance of the *Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Conformance with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final, August 1997*.

I have reviewed the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed activities documented in Environmental Assessment #ID-330-2007-EA 3268, Grouse Creek, Meadow Creek, Trail Creek and the Rock Creek Allotments, Authorization Renewal. I have also reviewed the project record for this analysis and the effects of the proposed action and alternatives as disclosed in the Alternatives and Environmental Impacts sections of the EA. I have determined that authorizing this level of preference use in accordance with the permit terms and conditions established in the selected alternative is in conformance with the following Sections in the Challis Resource Management Plan (1999) relating to: Biological Diversity, Cultural Resources, Fisheries, Livestock Grazing, Recreation Opportunities and Visitor Use, Riparian Areas, Special Status Species, Tribal Treaty Rights, Upland Watershed, Visual Resources, and Water Quality, Wilderness Study Areas, Wildlife Habitat, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Implementing regulations for NEPA (40CFR 1508.27) provide criteria for determining the significance of effects. Significance, as used in NEPA, requires consideration of both context and intensity.

**(a) Context. This requirement means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant (40 CFR 1508.27):**

The disclosure of effects in the EA found the actions limited in context. The planning area is limited in size and the activities limited in potential. Effects are local in nature and are not likely to significantly affect regional or national resources.

**(b) Intensity. This requirement refers to the severity of impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action. The following are considered in evaluating intensity (40 CFR 1508.27).**

*(1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.*

The analysis documented in EA #ID-330-2007-3268 did not identify any individually significant short- or long-term impacts.

*(2) The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.*

No major effects on public health and safety were identified in the EA.

*(3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

- No major effects on unique geographic characteristics of the area, cultural or historical resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas were identified in the EA. Cultural resources would not be adversely impacted (EA; Section I). No prime farmlands or park lands are found in the project area.

*(4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

- The analysis did not identify any controversy or disagreement concerning effects on the quality of the human environment. No public comments were received specifically about the Grouse Creek, Meadow Creek, Trail Creek or Rock Creek Allotments. The public comments received were on the general effects of grazing management actions on various resource values. No significant individual or cumulative impacts are anticipated as a result of this action. However, those actions in combination with this decision are not anticipated to result in cumulatively significant impacts.

*(5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

- The analysis did not identify any effects on the human environment which are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. Grazing has been a primary use in this area for at least 73 years (Taylor Grazing Act, 1934).

*(6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

- The analysis showed how the alternatives would implement direction in the Challis Resource Management Plan (EA Section I) and would not establish precedent for any future actions. The activities are not connected to any other future actions. Implementation of this decision would not trigger other actions, nor is it a part of a larger action in the project area encompassed by this decision.

*(7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

- The analysis did not identify any known significant cumulative or secondary effects (EA Section IV Environmental Impacts). Outside this project area, additional Standards and Guidelines Assessments, determinations and subsequent decisions will be made, potentially resulting in changes in livestock management actions, stocking levels and seasons of use.

*(8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

- Consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) has been conducted in accordance with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Programmatic Agreement and the implementing Protocol agreement between Idaho BLM and Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. The issuance of the permit would have no effect to cultural resources.
- The analysis showed that the alternatives would not result in adverse effects to cultural or historical resources. Mandatory terms and conditions, use indicator criteria and the grazing systems designed to address wildlife and vegetation issues would continue to offer an important level of protection to cultural resources. Mitigation of potential effects to sites in the vicinity of natural or constructed water sources includes monitoring. Appropriate management actions would be taken if increased impacts from livestock are documented. In summary, the grazing permit terms and conditions, use indicator criteria, and grazing system provide a reasonable level of general protection for cultural resources.

*(9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

- Proposed livestock grazing on the Grouse Creek, Trail Creek, Meadow Creek and Rock Creek Allotments would have no adverse effects to threatened, endangered or sensitive terrestrial wildlife species. (Section IV; Threatened and Endangered Fisheries and Fisheries and Threatened and Endangered Terrestrial Wildlife, BLM Sensitive Species, and Migratory Birds). Maintenance and/or improvement to wildlife habitat is expected through the implementation of the grazing permit terms and conditions, use indicator criteria and grazing systems (EA Section IV; sections for Threatened and Endangered Terrestrial Wildlife, BLM Sensitive Plant Species, and Migratory Birds, and Wildlife).
- A Biological Assessment has been prepared for the allotments that lie within the Pahsimeroi Watershed. The portions of Rock Creek and Trail Creek Allotments

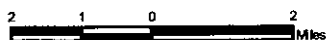
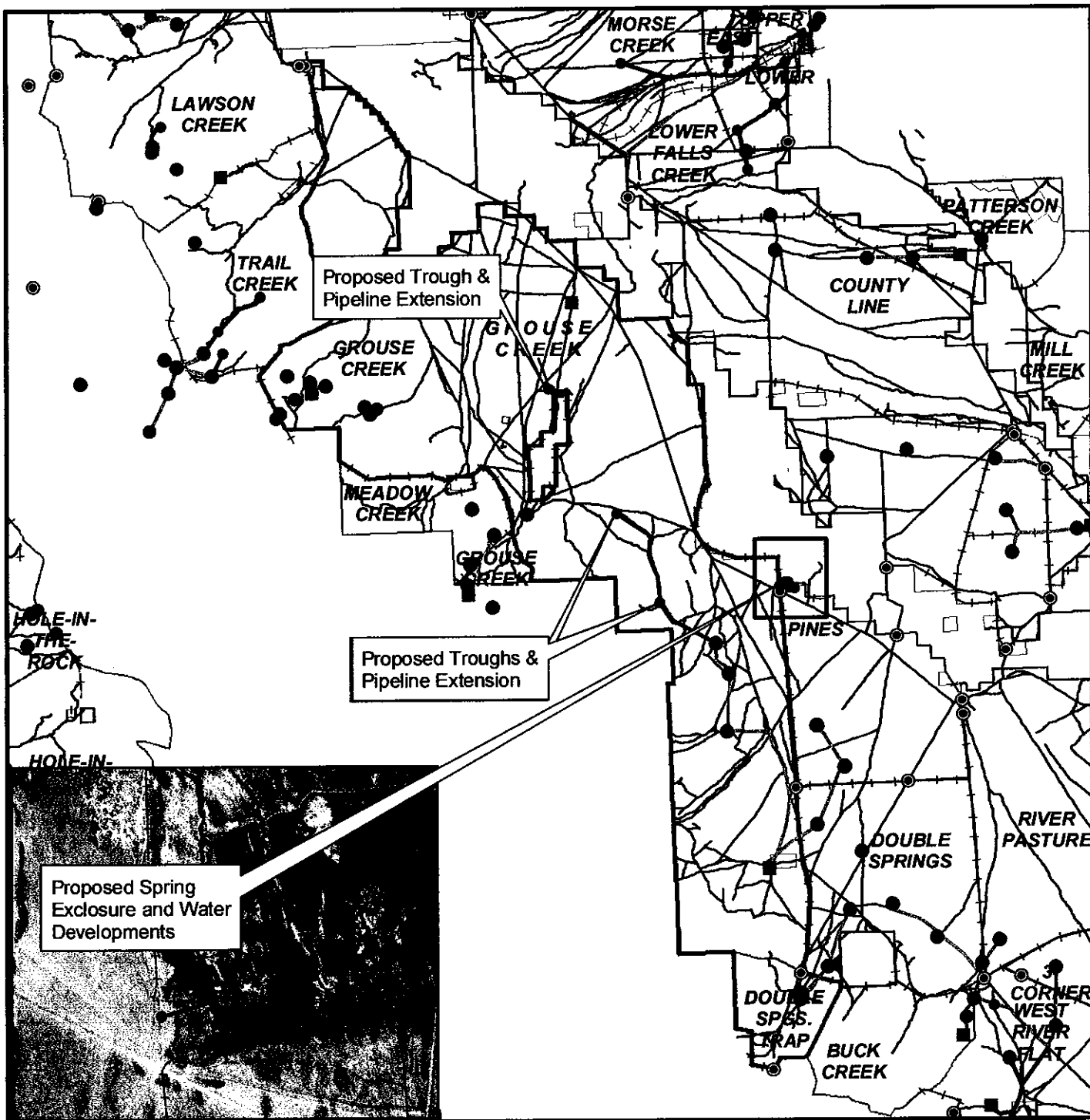
are evaluated in the Pahsimeroi Section 7 Watershed BA for Salmon, Steelhead, and Bull trout and determined that the allotment will have no effects on threatened, endangered or sensitive fish. Since the project will not directly or indirectly affect riparian habitats used by federally listed salmonids, consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended is not required. No effects to federally listed salmonids or their designated or proposed critical habitats or essential fish habitats will occur as a result of livestock grazing on the allotment. These allotments will not prevent the attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives identified in PACFISH or INFISH.

*(10) Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

- The analysis in the EA shows that the alternatives are consistent with Federal, State, and local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment (EA Section I).

I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) and have determined the actions analyzed in the EA would not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

# Grouse Creek Allotment

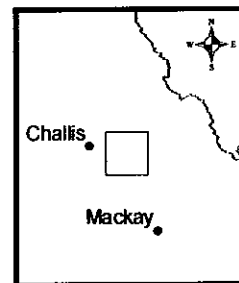


## Legend

- PROPOSED TROUGH
- ⊙ CATTLEGUARD
- CULVERT
- DIVERSION
- HEADBOX
- SPRING
- TROUGH
- WATERHOLE
- WELL
- +--- PROPOSED FENCE
- +— PROPOSED PIPELINE
- +--- FENCE
- +--- PIPELINE
- GRAZING ALLOTMENTS
- PASTURE BOUNDARIES

This map depicts the Grouse Creek Allotment of the Challis Field Office, Idaho BLM. The source of these data are from Idaho Corporate Data and USGS.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.





# Meadow Creek Allotment



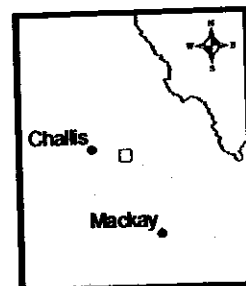
## Legend

- PROPOSED TROUGH
- CATTLEGUARD
- CULVERT
- DIVERSION
- HEADBOX
- SPRING
- TROUGH
- WATERHOLE
- WELL
- +— PROPOSED FENCE
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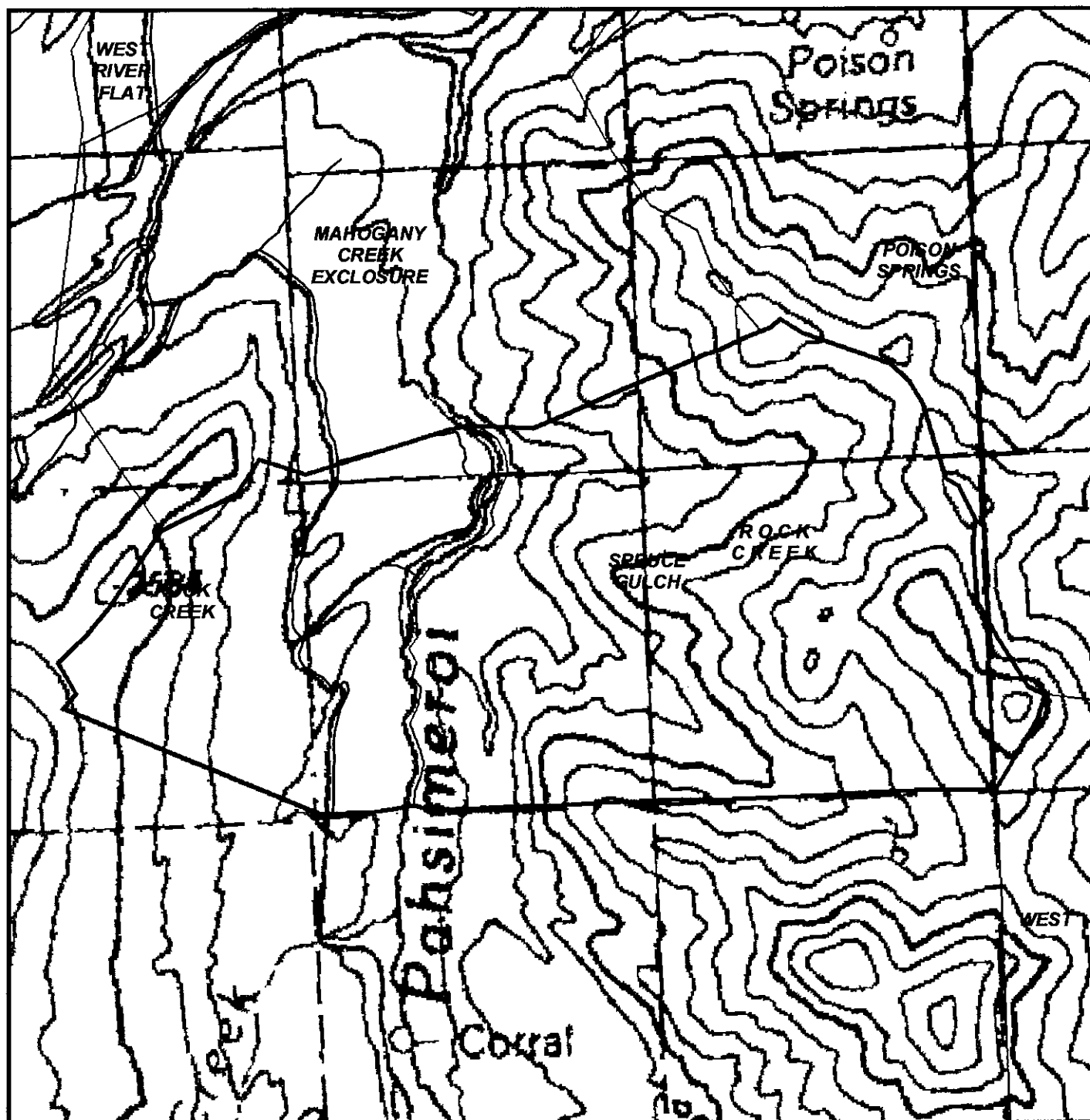
Map created by Eric Aiello  
GIS Specialist, Challis FO - BLM  
11/26/2007







# Rock Creek Allotment



## Legend

- ☐ GRAZING ALLOTMENTS
- ☐ PASTURE BOUNDARIES

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